

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-224

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Jackstraw Treatment Modification

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 2, hunt unit 7

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Flagstaff

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[x] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**[x] **NO**[]

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**[] **NO**[X]→ **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Aspen Revegetation, Jackstrawing

Brief Project Summary: Past jackstrawing treatments in the Hart Prairie Project have had limited effectiveness in protecting aspen regeneration from browsing. Rather than using only hand fallers to jackstraw the trees, this proposal would use an excavator with a "thumb" to pick up and strategically place trees that are already on the ground in more strategic places to better fortify the outside edges.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: September 2015

Project End Date: September 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ \$14,791.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 0

Total Project Costs:

\$ 14,791.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Shawn Martin

Address:

Flagstaff Ranger District

5075 N. Hwy 89

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

E-mail:

samartin@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 928-527-8285

Date: 8/27/14

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Rosenstock, 928-214-1253

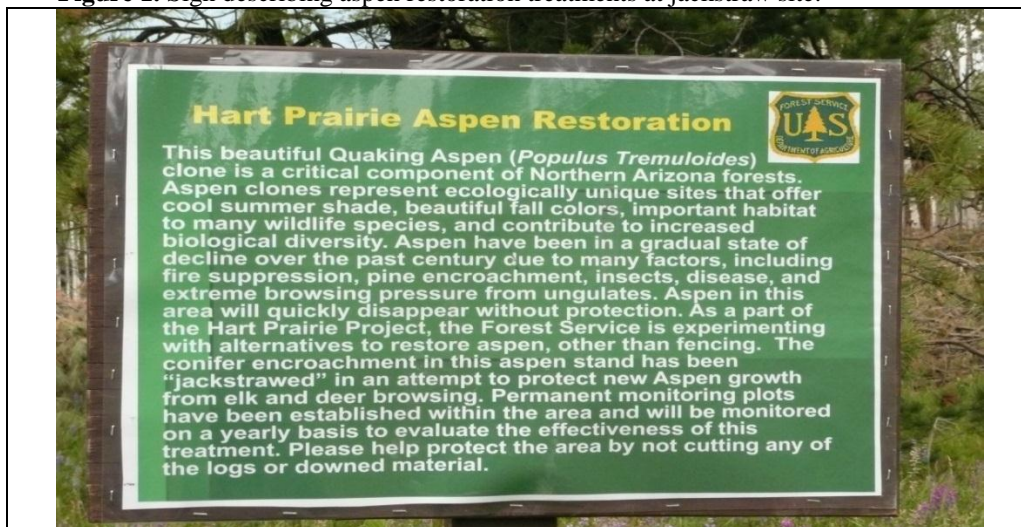
Project has been coordinated with: Steve Rosenstock

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: The aspen forests on the Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino NF have been in decline for the last 30 years due to variety of factors. Aspen regeneration in the last 30 years has not been successful outside of elk exclosure fences.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To explore new ways of protecting aspen regeneration that does not involve building fences with long term maintenance requirements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: In 2011, Approximately 15 acres were “jackstrawed” in the Hart Prairie Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project at the junction of Forest Roads 151 and 794 (see area map). This experimental treatment was done in an effort to protect aspen suckers (sprouts) from browsing damage and to explore more cost effective ways to protect aspen regeneration other than building more fences (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Sign describing aspen restoration treatments at jackstraw site.



Treatment effectiveness has been mixed. Aspen has successfully regenerated (Figure 2) in portions of the jackstraw treatment, but browse damage is still occurring because areas around the perimeter have low spots that allow access into the interior of the jackstraw area. Monitoring data from 2013 indicates that about 100 aspen per acre that were greater than 2-feet tall in 2012 were browsed down below 2-feet in 2013.

Figure 2. Regenerating aspen in the jackstraw treatment (2011)



The treatment was done using hand crews with chainsaws to directionally fell trees to create an impenetrable barrier that would keep wild ungulates out. In certain areas, insufficient conifers were available to create a barrier high enough to prevent entry. This proposal would use an excavator with a “thumb” to pick up and strategically place trees that are already on the ground in more strategic places to better fortify the outside edges. Along private land boundaries and in areas where trees were jackstrawed and aspen is not expected to successfully regenerate excess trees would be piled and burned. Larger trees to be strategically placed and piled would have to be bucked into more manageable lengths by the fuels crew.

PROJECT LOCATION: Hart Prairie

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S): Coconino National Forest

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner’s name)

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*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Aspen Stands

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Excavator Rental (USFS to supply operator)	\$2,000.00/week x 1 week =	\$ 2,000.00
Dozer (USFS) for piling	\$450.00/day x 3 days =	\$ 1,350.00
Transport (move in – move out)	\$36.15/hour x 4 hours =	\$ 145.00

Operator (for excavator & dozer)	\$356.41/day x 7 days =	\$ 2,495.00
Fuels crew	\$1,473.00/day x 5 days =	\$ 7,365.00
Planning/Overhead (Silv/Fire & Fuels)	\$1,035.00	\$ 1,036.00
Materials/Supplies	\$500.00	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total:		\$14,791.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING,
OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The district silviculturist will be involved with the implementation of the jackstraw construction and will monitor the effectiveness of the jackstraw on an annual basis.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Annual inspections will show if there is a need to shore up the jackstraw. Any future work will likely be undertaken by the Aspen Volunteer Team or the district fuels crew.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Shawn Marin, Flagstaff RD Silviculturist.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):